

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-14

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NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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R 070955Z MAY 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1749

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0750

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: AMERICAN EXPATRIATE'S VIEWS ON POLITICAL MOVEMENT

1. ON APRIL 7 ROBERT WINTER, RETIRED AMERICAN PROFESSOR AT PEKING UNIVERSITY CAME TO USLO TO DISCUSS HIS INHERITANCE IN THE U.S. AND PICK UP FORMS TO APPLY FOR U.S. PASSPORT. WINTER STILL LIVES IN HOUSE ON UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, AND FOR HIS 87 YEARS SEEMED ALERT ALTHOUGH OCCASIONALLY WEAK ON NAMES. HE VOLUNTEERED THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON PEKING UNIVERSITY AND POLITICAL CAMPAIGN IN CHINA.

2. CURRENT CAMPAIGN SEEMED TO BE REACHING A PEAK AT PEKING UNIVERSITY THIS WEEK AND CLASSES WERE SUSPENDED AND POLITICAL SESSIONS WERE GOING ON "MORNING, NOON AND NIGHT". AN AUSTRIAN NAMED SEITZBERGER WHO IS WORKING ON GERMAN-CHINESE DICTIONARY AT THE UNIVERSITY WAS TOLD TO STAY AWAY FOR THE WEEK. SEVERAL CHINESE OVER 60 YEARS OLD WHOM WINTER KNEW WELL EXPRESSED CONCERN TO HIM THAT CHIANG CHING, AFTER BEING QUIESCENT IN EARLIER STAGES, WAS NOW COMING INTO PROMINENCE AND THEY FEARED THEY MIGHT COME UNDER ATTACK. THESE SAME CHINESE SUFFERED DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND ATTRIBUTED THEIR

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TROUBLES THEN TO CHIANG CHING. THESE CHINESE BELIEVED

CHIANG CHING WAS BEHIND ATTACKS ON "THREE ASCENTS UP PEACH MOUNTAIN". THEY EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN CHOU EN-LAI AND HOPED HE WOULD KEEP THINGS UNDER CONTROL. WINTER SAID HE TOLD THEM HE BELIEVED CURRENT CAMPAIGN WAS NOT LIKE CULTURAL REVOLUTION AND WAS BEING CAREFULLY CONTROLLED.

3. WINTER SAID THAT STORIES WERE CIRCULATING THAT PENG CHEN WAS GOING TO REAPPEAR. CHINESE ATTRIBUTED PENG'S FALL IN PART TO HIS ASSOCIATION WITH ABORTIVE 1965 INDONESIAN COUP. WU HAN OF "HAI JUI DISMISSED FROM OFFICE" FAME IS RUMORED TO HAVE DIED IN JAIL. WINTER CLAIMED WU DID NOT COMMIT SUICIDE AS HAD BEEN RUMORED.

4. REGARDING HIS OWN EXPERIENCES IN CULTURAL REVOLUTION, WINTER SAID IN 1969 CHAO TE-MING WHO WAS A PARTY MEMBER AT PEKING UNIVERSITY CAME TO HIS HOUSE AND ACCUSED WINTER OF CERTAIN MALPRACTICES. WINTER DENIED THEM AND ASKED CHAO WHAT HE WANTED. CHAO DEMANDED MONEY AND WINTER GAVE IT TO HIM FIGURING "IT WAS A NAIL IN CHAO'S COFFIN, NOT MINE". LATER WINTER WROTE LETTERS TO THE UNIVERSITY REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE AND TO THE PUBLIC SECURITY BUREAU REPORTING WHAT CHAO HAD DONE. WINTER SAID IN AN UNPRECEDENTED MOVE (HE HAD NEVER HEARD OF A CP MEMBER APOLOGIZING TO A FOREIGNER) CHAO WAS BROUGHT BEFORE HIM IN 1971, KNELT ON A STOOL, APOLOGIZED AND RETURNED THE MONEY. CHAO WAS SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS AT HARD LABOR. RECENTLY CHAO WAS RELEASED AND WINTER SAID NOW CHAO WAS GOING AROUND PEKING COLLECTING SOME OF HIS OLD FOLLOWERS.

5. WINTER DID NOT KNOW ABOUT MAY YIN-CHU'S REAPPEARANCE ON MAY DAY. HE DID SAY THAT ON PREVIOUS HOLIDAYS HE HAD BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY A UNIVERSITY COLLEAGUE NAMED NI WHO PAID CLOSE ATTENTION TO WHATEVER WINTER DID AND TO WHOM HE TALKED. WINTER SAID HE HAD COMPLAINED GOOD HUMOREDLY TO CP MEMBER AT PEKING UNIVERSITY THAT NI WAS TAKING HIS POLICE DUTIES TOO SERIOUSLY. NI DID NOT ACCOMPANY WINTER ON MAY DAY 1974.

6. WINTER CONSULTED A CP MEMBER WHOM HE SEES OFTEN AT THE UNIVERSITY ABOUT COMING TO USLO. CP MEMBER HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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ADVISED AGAINST IT WITHOUT PROVIDING ANY SPECIFIC REASON. WINTER SAID HE HAD SEEN CHANG HSI-JO ON AND OFF UNTIL HIS DEATH RECENTLY. WINTER HAD KNOWN CHANG SINCE AT LEAST LATE 40S WHEN HE HAD INTRODUCED CHANG AND WU HAN TO VISITING ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION FUNCTIONARY IN EFFORT TO PERSUADE HIM NOT ALL COMMUNIST SUPPORTERS WERE CRIMINALS.

7. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO WAY OF ASSESSING THE ACCURACY
OF WINTER'S COMMENT THAT THE POLITICAL MOVEMENT AT
PEKING UNIVERSITY WILL REACH A PEAK DURING THIS WEEK.
A POSSIBLE CONTRARY INDICATOR WAS OFFERED BY THE
BRITISH WHO HAVE INFORMED US THAT FOUR OF THEIR STUDENTS
ATTENDING THE CHINESE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE HAVE JUST
BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION TO MOVE OVER TO PEKING UNIVERSITY
AS FULL TIME STUDENTS THERE. THIS DECISION FOLLOWED
LENGTHY ON AGAIN OFF AGAIN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
CHINESE AND CAME SUDDENLY LAST WEEK.
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